

29th September 2021

s9(2)(a)

Dear s9(2)(a)

Official Information Act Request for – PPE Incident

I write in response to your Official Information Act request received by us 3rd August 2021, you requested the following information:

- **All communications and correspondence (including but not limited to documents, advice, reports, internal emails and memos) relating to the positive Covid-19 patient from Fiji transferred to and treated at Middlemore Hospital, including all correspondence about potential health and safety breaches, and the related "PPE protocol incident" the Ministry of Health notified the public of on July 30.**

CM Health has another Official Information Act request from you requesting all communications and correspondence relating to the positive Covid-19 patient from Fiji transferred to Middlemore Hospital. This response will cover the PPE incident of your request.

On the 19th August 2021 we partially transferred your request to Auckland Regional Public Health Service/Auckland District Health Board to provide a response to the information they hold in relation to the PPE incident part of your request.

Counties Manukau Health Response:

For context Counties Manukau Health (CM Health) employs over 8,500 staff and provides health and support services to people living in the Counties Manukau region (approx. 601,490 people). We see over 118,000 people in our Emergency Department each year, and over 2,000 visitors come through Middlemore Hospital daily.

Attached as appendix 1 is communication in relation to your request, please note we have redacted some information within the appendix to protect the privacy of the natural persons under section 9(2)(a) of the Official Information Act 1982 – *protect the privacy of the natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons.*

CM Health has robust processes in place for managing such incidents and has a good relationship with Auckland Regional Public Health Service (ARPHS) who provide public health services to all three metro Auckland District Health Boards – Counties Manukau Health, Waitemātā District Health Board and Auckland District Health Board, and the populations they serve.

I trust this information answers your request. You are entitled to seek a review of the response by the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or Freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response or an edited version of this may be published on the Counties Manukau Health website. If you consider there are good reasons why this response should not be made publicly available, we will be happy to consider this.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'F. Apa', enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

Fepulea'i Margie Apa
Chief Executive Officer
Counties Manukau Health

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 30 July 2021 9:12 AM
To: [REDACTED] s9(2)(a)
Cc: [REDACTED] s9(2)(a)
Subject: RE: FYI re: PPE breach in ICU with Fiji COVID patient

Nga mihi [REDACTED]
I am very pleased to hear this has been handled so competently and professionally. If there is more that should be done or would be helpful please let me know.
Please pass on my thanks to all the IP&C staff for their support to the ICU and others to ensure the safe care of this patient.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] s9(2)(a)
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 30 July 2021 8:47 am
To: [REDACTED] s9(2)(a)
Cc: [REDACTED] s9(2)(a)
Subject: FYI re: PPE breach in ICU with Fiji COVID patient

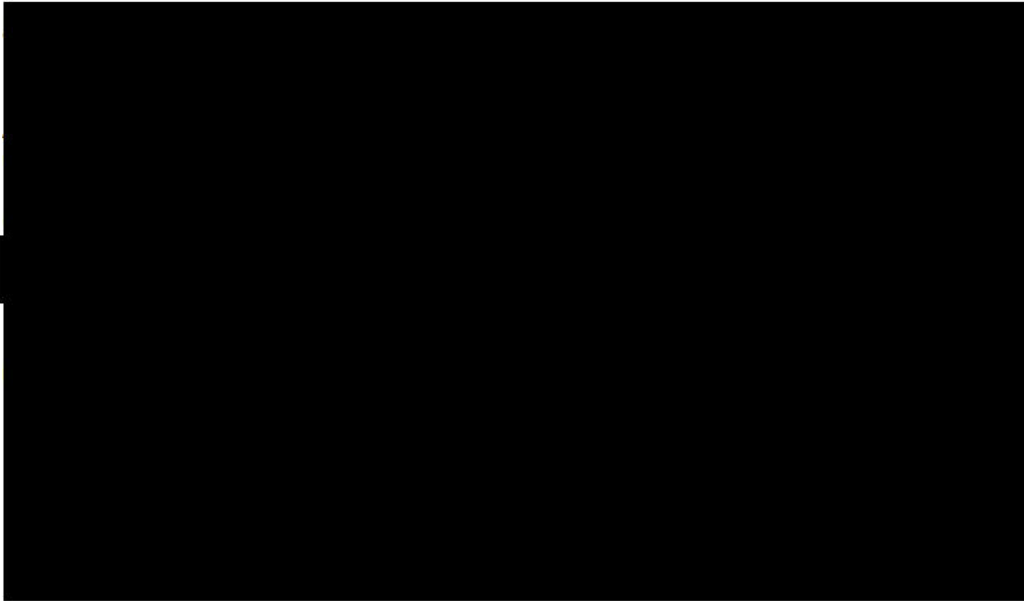
Hi [REDACTED],
Just an FYI in case you're not aware (although I suspect you are!).

Last night there was an airway emergency in ICU with what I understand to be an ET tube cuff leak in the COVID patient from Fiji. This was managed very capably by the ICU and Anaesthetic teams, however there was an accidental PPE breach (reported to me as mask riding up during emergency beneath visor whilst staff member at head end during airway manipulation). The staff member involved is reported to be fully vaccinated and is a regular member of ICU staff.

Actions taken include:

- Staff member will need to be stood down for 14 days – location of isolation not sorted as far as I'm aware, has unvaccinated family members at home so very reluctant to isolate at home
- Staff member offered immediate stand-down for psychological reasons but not required to stand down as per NRHCC guidance
- Occ Health notified
- Discussed with me as ID on call

ICU have managed this entirely appropriately and this was a non-intentional PPE breach which occurred in an emergency situation and I've commended them on their response to it with appropriate escalation and action.



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 30 July 2021 10:45 AM

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED] s9(2)(a)

Subject: PPE Breach
Importance: High

Morning,

Below are the details for our ICU [REDACTED] s9(2)(a) who whilst assisting with a replacement of the Fiji patients endotracheal tube, [REDACTED] s9(2)(a) mask slipped down. [REDACTED] s9(2)(a) was wearing a visor at the time, however was at the head of the bed. Due to the delta variant and discussions with ID services [REDACTED] s9(2)(a) is to be stood down for 14 days.

[REDACTED] s9(2)(a) lives in a 3 bedroom house with [REDACTED] s9(2)(a). There is only one bathroom, therefore we request [REDACTED] s9(2)(a) is moved into Jet Park, [REDACTED] s9(2)(a) has approved of this.

[REDACTED] s9(2)(a)

Regards

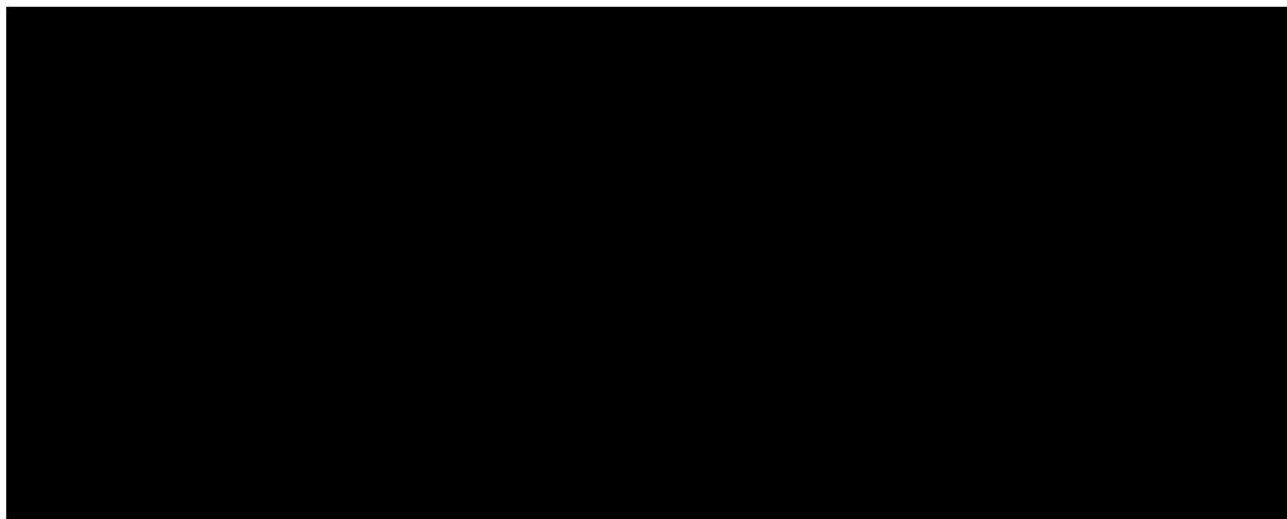
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 30 July 2021 11:14 AM

To: [REDACTED] s9(2)(a)
Cc: [REDACTED] s9(2)(a) [REDACTED] s9(2)(a) [REDACTED] s9(2)(a)
Subject: RE: Arrival

Morning,

After discussions with ARPHS the [REDACTED] s9(2)(a) is going to Jet Park as a community close contact for 14 days. I have spoken with [REDACTED] s9(2)(a) and [REDACTED] s9(2)(a) is happy with this.



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 30 July 2021 7:13 a.m.
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Arrival

Thanks [REDACTED] for the updates
I'll touch base in ICU and make sure all is ok this morning

Kind regards
[REDACTED]

On 30/07/2021, at 06:23, [REDACTED] s9(2)(a) wrote:

Thanks [REDACTED]. I was thinking that if staff are concerned about their families we should look at making access to a MIF room available or find some other accommodation to support staff.

Sent from my iPhone

On 29/07/2021, at 11:19 PM, [REDACTED] s9(2)(a) wrote:

Unfortunately I received a call on my way home, I am letting you know early before tomorrow. An ICU [redacted] s9(2)(a) during her ET tube exchange had [redacted] s9(2)(a) mask slip off. [redacted] s9(2)(a) was wearing a visor, however after discussion with occupational health [redacted] s9(2)(a) will be stood down. [redacted] s9(2)(a) is at work until 7am which occ health says [redacted] s9(2)(a) can continue work [redacted] s9(2)(a) will be wearing a mask throughout and maintaining social distance in tearooms etc. [redacted] s9(2)(a) does not require a swab now but has requested one, which the ACNM will arrange tonight.

I will send through more details in the morning. Occupational Health will take over the management of this situation tomorrow.

[redacted]

Out of Scope
[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 30 July 2021 11:07 AM

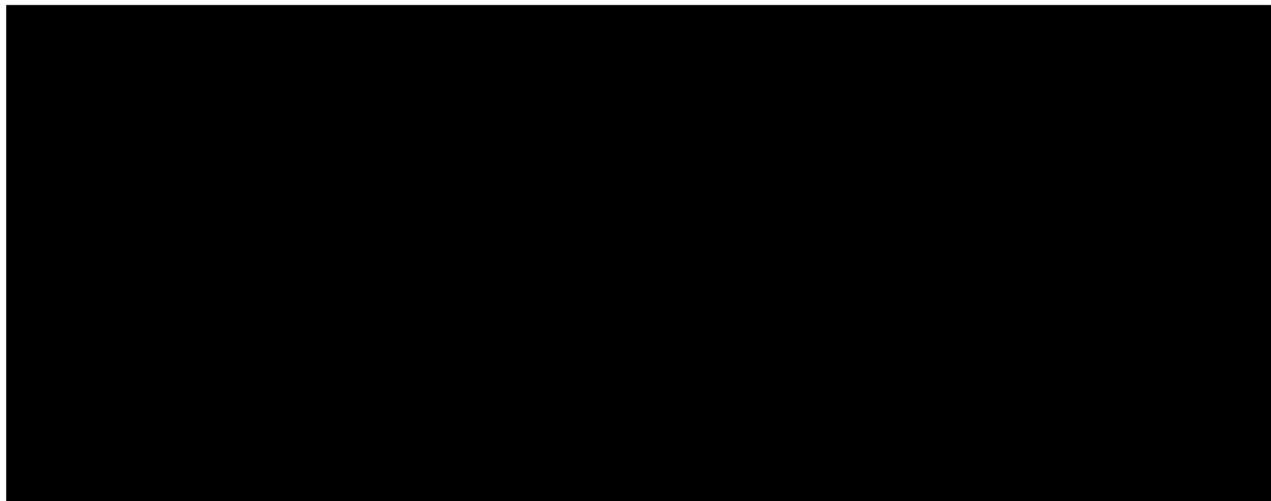
To: [REDACTED] s9(2)(a)
[REDACTED] s9(2)(a) [REDACTED] s9(2)(a)
[REDACTED] s9(2)(a) >

Cc: [REDACTED] s9(2)(a)
Subject: RE: PPE Breach

This occurred in Critical Care (ICU), [REDACTED] s9(2)(a) is fully vaccinated, but [REDACTED] s9(2)(a) family are not.

[REDACTED] s9(2)(a) is our Occ Health nurse who is working with [REDACTED] s9(2)(a)
I have made contact with the ARIQCC and the Jet Park charge nurse has been in contact with me to and they are ready to go.

Regards



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 30 July 2021 10:57 a.m.
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: PPE Breach

Thanks [REDACTED]

This is v unfortunate. Transfer to a MIQF is appropriate.

Could you confirm where this occurred (eg ITU or ED or en route)?

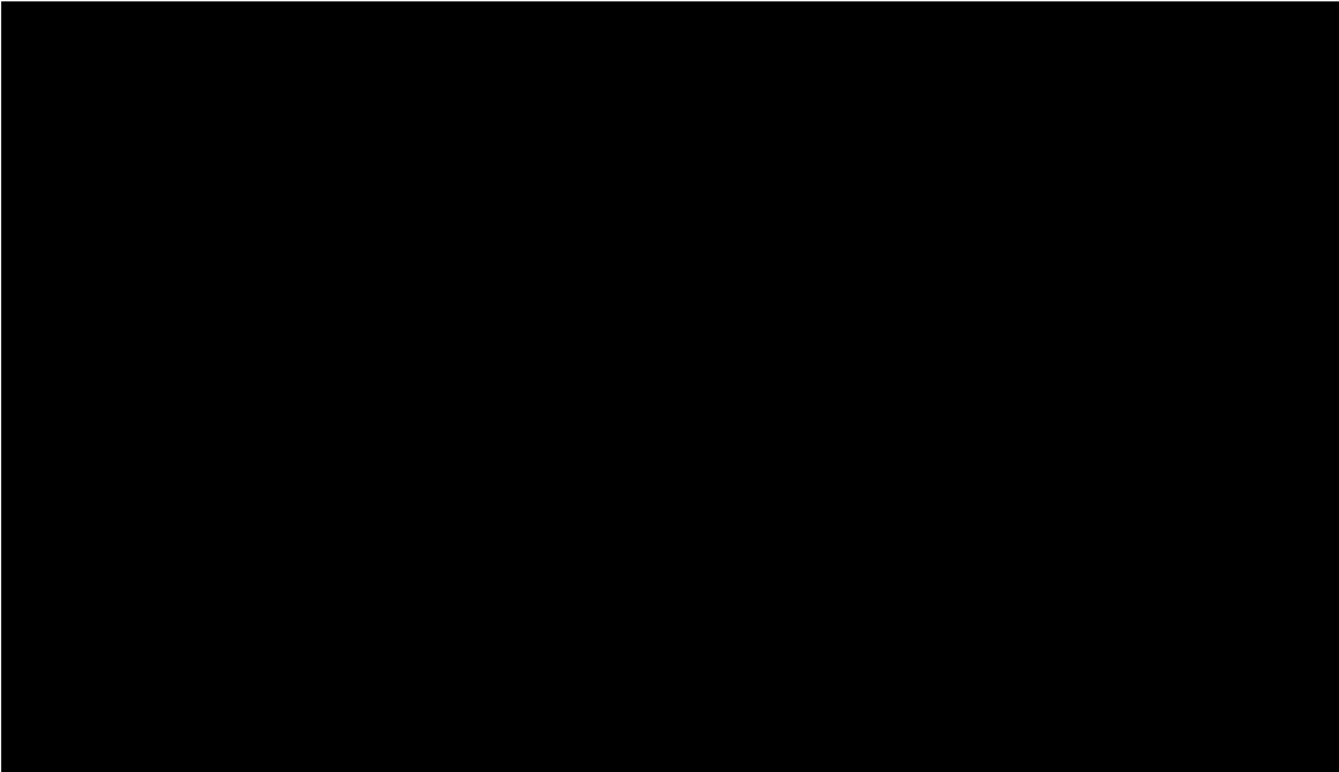
Do you have info on [REDACTED] s9(2)(a) vaccination status?

One of our teams will be in touch with [REDACTED] s9(2)(a) later in the day.

Could you let ARPHSOPS know who is the contact at your Occupational Health and IPC services for this incident.

There are some administrative arrangements we need to make with RIQCC, but shouldn't be of concern to you or the [REDACTED]

Nga mihi



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 30 July 2021 10:45 a.m.
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: PPE Breach
Importance: High

Morning,

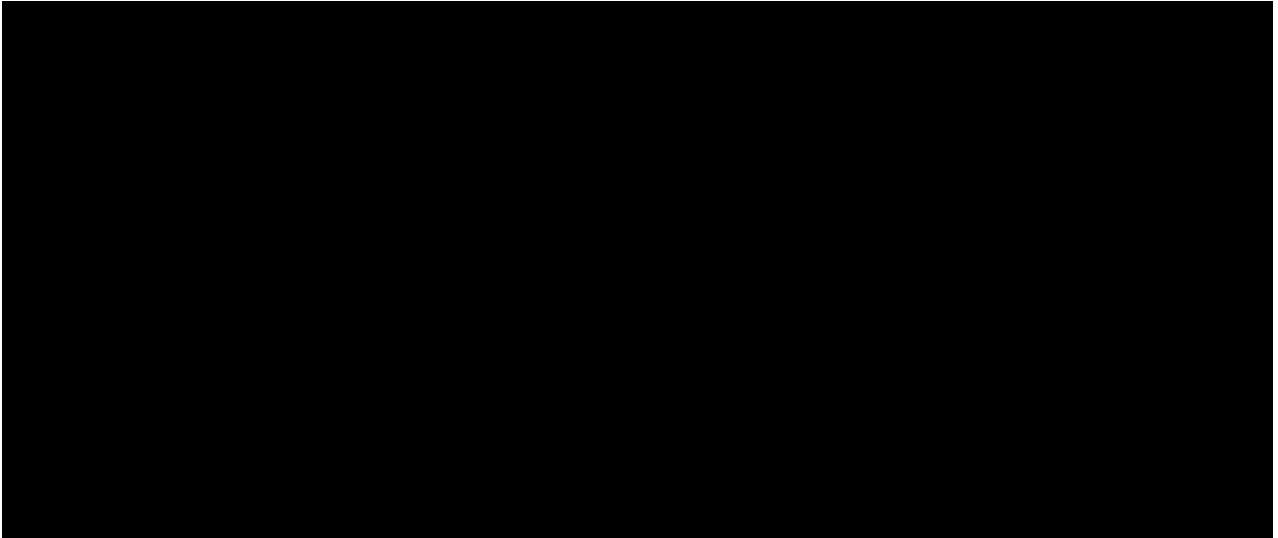
Below are the details for our ICU [REDACTED] who whilst assisting with a replacement of the Fiji patients endotracheal tube, [REDACTED] mask slipped down [REDACTED] was wearing a visor at the time, however was at the head of the bed. Due to the delta variant and discussions with ID services [REDACTED] is to be stood down for 14 days.

[REDACTED] lives in a 3 bedroom house with [REDACTED]. There is only one bathroom, therefore we request [REDACTED] is moved into Jet Park, [REDACTED] has approved of this.

[REDACTED]

s9(2)(a)

Regards



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 10 August 2021 8:42 AM
To: [REDACTED] s9(2)(a)
Subject: FW: CMDHB Blood Body Fluid Exposure Reporting Form - do not reply
Importance: High

Kind regards



From: [REDACTED] s9(2)(a)
Sent: Thursday, 29 July 2021 11:25 p.m.
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: CMDHB Blood Body Fluid Exposure Reporting Form - do not reply
Importance: High

**Part 1: Exposed Individual
Details (Staff)** Reference Number: [REDACTED] s9(2)(a)

Person Information

s9(2)(a)
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Incident Details

s9(2)(a)
[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

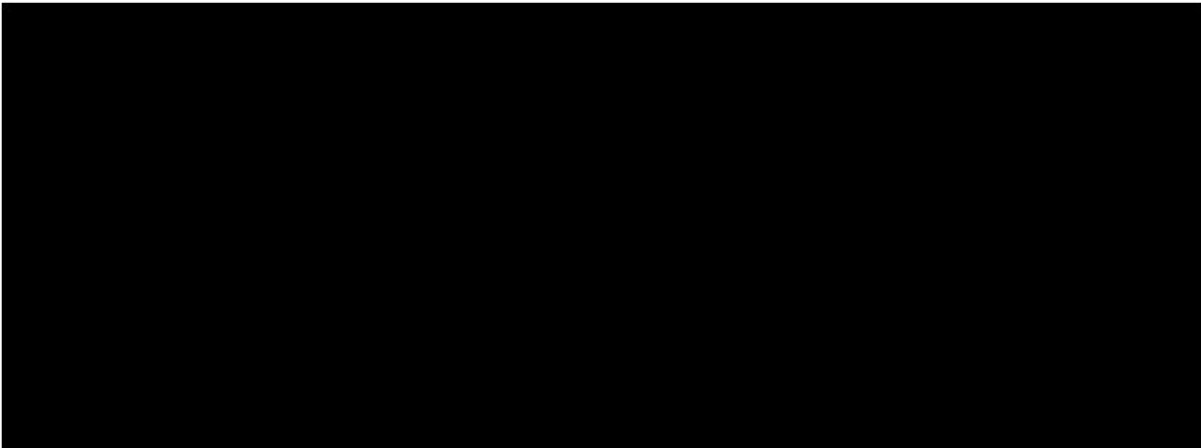
Part 2: Source Details (Patient)

s9(2)(a)
[Redacted]

[Redacted]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 10 August 2021 8:43 AM
To: [REDACTED] s9(2)(a)
Subject: FW: Comirnaty code for family members

Kind regards



*Please consider **the environment** before printing this email.*

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 01 August 2021 9:17 a.m.
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED] 9(2)(a)
Subject: RE: Comirnaty code for family members

Good morning,

Below is the instructions on how to book, if there are any problems let me know. I hope things are going well at jet park and you are getting plenty of rest. Please do shout out if there is anything that you need.

It's quick and easy to book in at a centre near you:

1. Click on this link and it will take you to a booking page - [Book your appointments now](#)
2. If manually typing in book.vaccine.covid19.health.nz, please type into the address bar (not your search engine, e.g. google)
3. When asked, you'll need to enter your unique access code [REDACTED]
4. Complete the details on the booking page to register for your appointment

5. Select a date, time and location that suits you for your first and second doses
6. You'll get a confirmation text and email

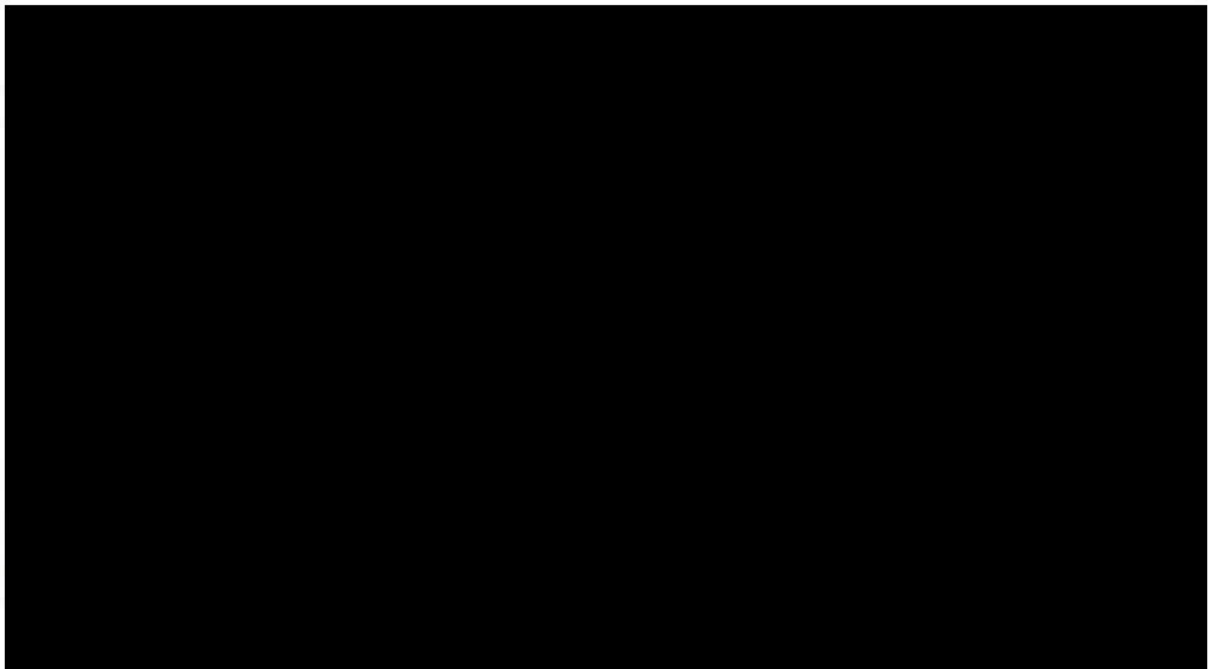
You can find out more about the vaccine and how it protects you and your community [here](#).

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 31 July 2021 5:03 p.m.
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED] s9(2)(a)
Subject: Comirnaty code for family members
Importance: High

Hi [REDACTED]

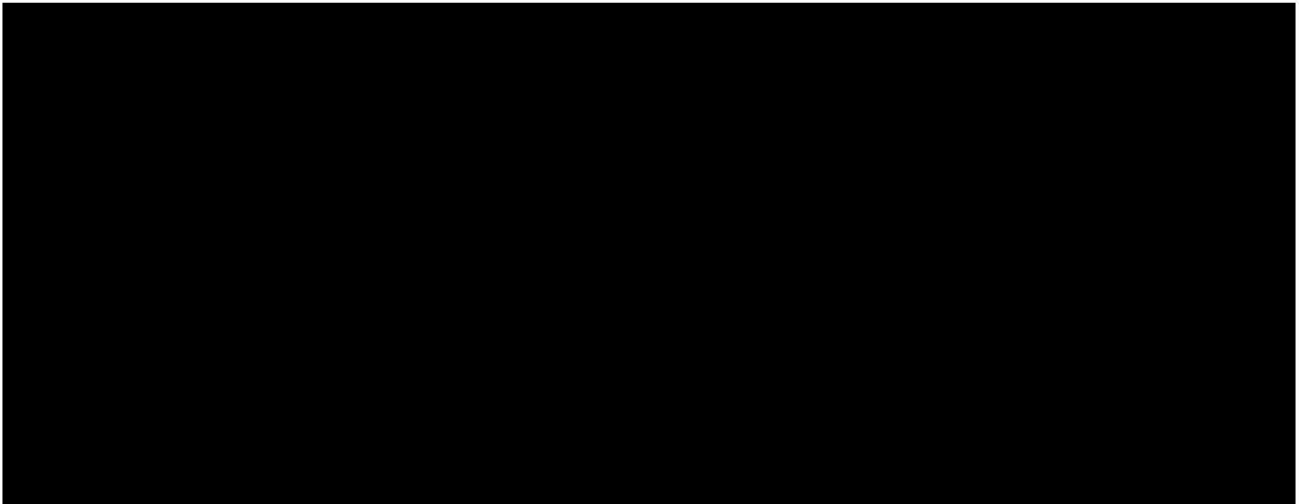
[REDACTED] s9(2)(a) would like the code so [REDACTED] family can get the covid-19 vaccines please.

Regards



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 10 August 2021 8:43 AM
To: [REDACTED] s9(2)(a)
Subject: FW: Exposed ICU employee to be managed by ARPHS

Kind regards



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 30 July 2021 12:02 p.m.
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Exposed ICU employee to be managed by ARPHS

Kia ora [REDACTED] and [REDACTED],

As just discussed with [REDACTED] via phone, ARPHS is happy to take over the close contact management of the ICU [REDACTED] s9(2)(a) involved in the PPE breach last night re COVID case re-intubation.

I note:

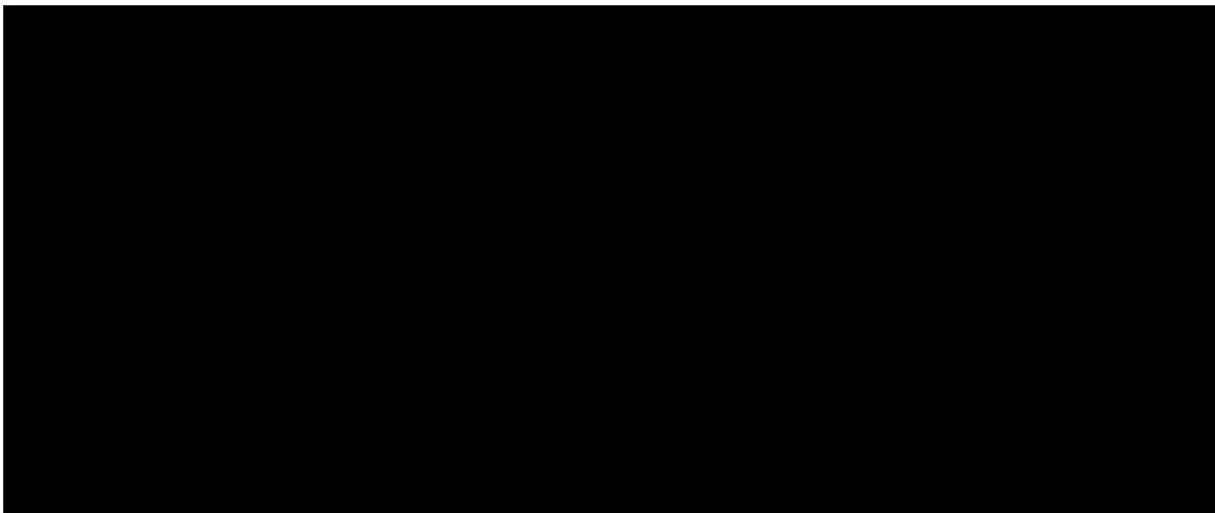
- Our ops teams will contact [REDACTED] (occ health nurse) to discuss formal handover
- This is outside of the scope of the current SOP but is seen as appropriate due to:
 - New NCTS roll-out which has not yet had training through MMH
 - The employee moving DHBs part-way through the quarantine period (so ongoing CMH occ health input becomes more problematic)
 - Delta variant management at this point for NZ
 - CMH Occ health already managing high anxieties around the patient's care
- This is a single instance of working outside the occ health/ARPHS SOP and will not replace SOP use in usual circumstances.

ARPHS CCM team- could you please contact [REDACTED], lead occ health nurse, to keep her in the loop at various key points in the close contact management pathway (e.g. first test result, release date etc).



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 10 August 2021 8:43 AM
To: [REDACTED] s9(2)(a)
Subject: FW: Notification: CLOSE PLUS status for staff member
Importance: High

Kind regards



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 02 August 2021 10:16 a.m.
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Notification: CLOSE PLUS status for staff member
Importance: High

Tēnā tatou katoa,

Please be advised that the following counties Manukau Health staff member is required to remain in self isolation for fourteen days. The last day of exposure to the Covid-19 virus was from 29 July 2021.

[REDACTED] s9(2)(a)
Status: Close Plus Contact

[REDACTED] s9(2)(a) will be managed by Auckland Regional Public Health while quarantined at a managed isolation quarantine facility.

Nga mihi,

